

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 XMB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDOC WASHDC

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USDOC FOR STEPHEN CONGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, GB

SUBJ: TRANSGABON RAILROAD: LOUIS BERGER INTERNATIONAL

REF: STATE 102395

1. WHILE LOUIS BERGER GROUP HAS NOT APPROACHED EMBASSY "COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR," THOMAS J. DOYLE, DIRECTOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, LOUIS BERGER INTERNATIONAL, WROTE LETTER DATED MAY 2 TO U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GABON (INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED AS JOHN GETZ) ASKING AMBASSADOR FOR "SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE" FOR JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS OF LOUIS BERGER AND PARTNERS FOR SUPERVISION OF TRANSGABON.

2. AMBASSADOR REPLIED ON MAY 7 TO DOYLE LETTER STATING THAT EMBASSY WELL AWARE OF ABOVE PROPOSAL THROUGH CALLS ON AMBASSADOR BY LAROCHE AND THAT AMBASSADOR HAD ASSURED GOG IN REPLY TO LETTER FROM PRESIDENT BONGO OF OUTSTANDING REPUTATION OF LOUIS BERGER INTERNATIONAL" AND OF COMPANY'S "COMPETENCE AND SUITABILITY TO PERFORM THE SUPERVISION REQUIRED."

3. IN SAME LETTER AMBASSADOR ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SURE THAT LOUIS BERGER WELL AWARE THAT ANOTHER CON-

SORTIUM INCLUDING TAMS HAD MADE SIMILAR PROPOSAL AND
AMBASSADOR STATED "USG WOULD, OF COURSE, BE PLEASED
TO SEE EITHER CONSORTIUM SELECTED INASMUCH AS THEY BOTH
CONTAIN A U.S. FIRM."

4. WHILE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO LOUIS BERGER REPRESENTATIVE WAS CORDIAL AND STATED FACTUALLY THAT AMBASSADOR HAD VOUCHERED FOR COMPETENCE OF FIRM, LETTER MADE CLEAR THAT USG HAD NOT AND DID NOT INTEND TO RECOMMEND TO GOG THAT THEY CHOOSE LOUIS BERGER CONSORTIUM. MCKESSON

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